

Air traffic controllers, don't do a bangup job packing, storing, unpacking and moving your trailer-mounted AN/TPN-18A radar, especially on its antennas, drives and components—or your back.

Those radar components are heavy and easy to damage if they're not handled properly. They're heavy enough to damage you, too.

So follow the packing, unpacking and storage info in Chap 4 of TM 11-5895-474-12-1.

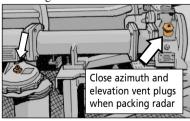
For sure, get three buddies to help you lift the azimuth and elevation antennas. Without a lifting device, it's a four-man job.

Never leave parts lying on the ground. Always secure them to the trailer. They're made of fiberglass and it's easy to accidentally punch holes in the dish.

If the antenna's damaged, your operations are shut down while broken parts go back to depot for repair.

Also make sure you don't bend the support arms or feed horns. They are calibrated and once they're out of alignment the radar is NMC.

While you're packing up the radar, remember to close the azimuth and elevation antenna drive vent plugs (red side up). That prevents condensation from forming inside the gearbox, which can contaminate oil and turn it into sludge.



When you're operating, the vent plugs should be turned green side up to allow the system to vent and to prevent pressure buildup that can blow out gearbox seals.